Claims

What is claimed is:

1.   A method of assessing a product development project comprising:

identifying multiple possible root causes of trouble for a product development project;

identifying questions sets for the multiple possible root causes of trouble; and

providing a computer-implemented tool to evaluate answers to the question sets and provide guidance regarding existence of one or more root causes of trouble for the product development project from the identified multiple possible root causes of trouble.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising evaluating project management processes employed for the product development project by comparison thereof to identified, standard project management processes, and wherein the computer-implemented tool provides guidance regarding effectiveness of implementation of the project management processes employed for the product development project.

3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising evaluating project management work product of the product development project and inputting work product assessment to the computer-implemented tool as further evidence of the existence of the one or more root causes of trouble for the product development project or the effectiveness of implementation of the project management processes employed for the product development project.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the computer-implemented tool provides guidance regarding existence of the one or more root causes of trouble using an automated scoring mechanism for evaluating answers to the question sets.

5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying in the computer-implemented tool product development project personnel roles to answer questions of the question sets, wherein the question sets also reside in the computer-implemented tool.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the product development project comprises one of a software development project or a hardware development project.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein each question set of the multiple question sets is directed to diagnosing a respective root cause of trouble of the multiple possible root causes of trouble.

8. A system for assessing a product development project comprising:

a computer-implemented tool comprising means identifying multiple common root causes of trouble for a product development project and question sets for the multiple common root causes of trouble, and wherein the computer-implemented tool further comprises means for evaluating answers to the question sets and providing guidance regarding existence of one or more root causes of trouble for the product development project from the identified multiple common root causes of trouble.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the computer-implemented tool further comprises means for evaluating project management processes employed for the product development project by comparison thereof to identified, standard project management processes, and wherein the computer-implemented tool provides guidance regarding effectiveness of implementation of the project management processes employed for the product development project.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the computer-implemented tool further comprises means for evaluating project management work product of the product development project as further evidence of the existence of one or more root causes of trouble for the product development project or the effectiveness of implementation of the project management processes employed for the product development project.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the computer-implemented tool comprises means for providing guidance regarding existence of one or more root causes of trouble using an automated scoring mechanism for evaluating answers to the question sets.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the computer-implemented tool further comprises means for identifying project development project personnel roles to answer questions of the question sets, wherein the question sets also reside within the computer-implemented tool.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein the product development project comprises one of a software development project or a hardware development project.

14. The system of claim 8, wherein each question set of the multiple question sets is directed to diagnosing a respective root cause of trouble of the multiple common root causes of trouble.

15.   At least one program storage device readable by a machine embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of assessing a product development project, the method comprising:

identifying multiple possible root causes of trouble for a product development project;

identifying question sets for the multiple possible root causes of trouble; and

evaluating answers to the question sets and providing guidance regarding existence of one or more root causes of trouble for the product development project from the identified multiple possible root causes of trouble.

16.   The at least one program storage device of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises evaluating project management processes employed for the product development project by comparison thereof to identified, standard project management processes, and providing guidance regarding effectiveness of implementation of the project management processes employed for the product development project.

17.   The at least one program storage device of claim 16, wherein the method further comprises evaluating project management work product of the product development project and providing work product assessment as further evidence of the existence one or more root causes of trouble for the product development project or the effectiveness of implementation of the project management processes employed for the product development project.

18.   The at least one program storage device of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises providing guidance regarding existence of the one or more root causes of trouble using an automated scoring mechanism for evaluating answers to the question sets.

19.   The at least one program storage device of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises identifying product development project personnel roles to answer questions of the question sets.

20.   The at least one program storage device of claim 15, wherein the product development project comprises a software development project or a hardware development project.

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